



ILLINOIS ETHICS MATTERS

FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE AGENCIES
OF THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

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RECENT NEWS

- On February 14, 2011, Governor Quinn signed SB 3965. Effective July 1, 2011, the OEIG will have the responsibility to investigate fraud, waste and corruption involving the Regional Transportation Authority and its related Transit Boards, the CTA, Metra and Pace.
- The OEIG has released its Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2010. Please visit our website to obtain an electronic copy of the report.

A Message from Supervising Assist. Inspector General



As the Supervising Assistant Inspector General for OEIG's Division of Complaints and Compliance, I would like to explain the primary functions of our Division.

Complaints Received by the OEIG

When our Division receives a report of misconduct (complaint), our Division makes an initial determination as to whether the allegations warrant an investigation, should be declined or referred. A complaint may be declined if the subject of the investigation falls outside the OEIG's jurisdiction or if the alleged wrongdoing occurred beyond the one-year period contained in the Ethics Act. A complaint may also be declined if it was previously or is currently being investigated by another entity. In some instances, a complaint may be referred to another entity, including law enforcement authorities.

Acceptance of Complaints

If the OEIG accepts a complaint for investigation, the matter is typically assigned to an OEIG investigative team consisting of one or more investigators and an Assistant Inspector General, who is responsible for leading the particular investigation. After the investigation is complete, the OEIG will issue a Founded or Unfounded report.

Revolving Door Determinations

The Complaints and Compliance Division is also responsible for issuing "Revolving Door" employment determinations. Upon termination of State employment or appointment, some State employees and appointees may be subject to the Revolving Door employment restrictions of the Ethics Act. For those employees, our Division will review submitted Revolving Door forms in order to determine whether the employee (or their immediate family members) may lawfully accept non-State employment or compensation.

Kristy Shores, Supervising Assistant Inspector General

Reporting Responsibilities

Successful efforts to promote honesty and integrity in State government are dependent upon a number of factors, including the prompt reporting of misconduct by:

- those who become aware of misconduct; or**
- those who observe wrongdoing.**

State employees are expected to report misconduct to the appropriate authorities. However, it is just as important to recognize that reports of misconduct must be:

- made in good faith; and**
- founded in a true belief that a violation of a law, rule, regulation, or policy has occurred.**

Frivolous complaints, when made to authorities, are wasteful of scarce resources, and individuals who file complaints that are found to have been made in bad faith, may be subject to penalties.

In fact, any person who **intentionally** makes a false report alleging a violation of any provision of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act may be found guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

*David Keahl, Director of Ethics
Training and Compliance*

<http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov>

Calendar of Events: **Feb. 17, 2011**-- Neil Olson, Deputy Director & Chief of the Springfield Division, will give a presentation to IDOC employees. **Mar. 2-3, 2011**--Office of Executive Inspector General all-staff meeting, Bloomington, IL. **Mar. 29, 2011**--Executive Ethics Commission Conference, SAIG Kristy Shores presenter. **May 18, 2011**, The National Association of Inspectors General National Conference will be held in Chicago.